

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." – Helen Keller

As I reflect on the weeks gone by, it is truly remarkable how much we have accomplished this fall.

These past few months have seen schools rebuilding communities to their full extent as we emerge from some of the restrictions of the global pandemic. For many, schools are community hubs, and the ways we use space to learn, grow and connect with others has evolved to be more responsive and inclusive. As 2022 comes to a close, I am grateful to you all – students, staff, family and community members – for working together to ensure all learners are inspired daily through innovative instruction, are supported in their learning needs, and feel welcome and included in all areas of school life. Thank you for your continued commitment to making the North Vancouver School District a phenomenal, community-driven environment.

In addition, the hustle and bustle of the last few weeks has meant that on top of the teaching and learning taking place in classrooms, schools (i.e., staff, administrators, PACs, volunteers, etc.) have been hosting winter concerts and festivals, student pyjama or cozy sweater days, sports tournaments, movie nights, fundraisers and community-building activities.

Students have been immersed in a wide range of activities and initiatives to bring joy to classmates, families, and members of the community. For example, for Band and Strings Jazz Night, Windsor students took the stage for an evening of music at Mt. Seymour United Church. At Montroyal Elementary, students honed their acting skills with a school-wide production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. A season for giving, students and staff across the school district are actively engaged in initiatives to spread holiday cheer to others. Each of these endeavours is a testament to how together, we can do so much!

With all the busyness of the season, I sincerely hope the holiday season also provides you with opportunities to connect with family and friends, build community and create lasting memories. I look forward to reconnecting in the New Year.

Happy Holidays!



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Good News from the NVSD

Visit our [Learn, Share & Grow](#) blog and [News & Announcements](#) to read about the good work happening throughout the school district.

For the stories with images that are included below, please click on the caption for a link to the blog post:

- Argyle's Leadership students "Share the Joy" ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Identity Impressions – A Grade 3 art exhibit ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Ross Road students continue Y2Y holiday campaign tradition ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Photos: Windsor Dukes clinch victory in AA junior football B.C. final ([North Shore News article](#))
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- Elementary strings students participate in music challenge ([NVSD blog post](#))
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Announcements

Winter Break – Education Services Centre operations update

Schools will be closed for Winter Break (December 19, 2022 to January 2, 2023). The Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Avenue) will remain open the week December 19 but will be closed to the public the week of December 26. Schools and the Education Services Centre will re-open on Tuesday, January 3.

Lynn Valley Elementary approved for an addition

We are pleased to share the Province has approved funding for an addition to Lynn Valley Elementary school. The addition will add six classrooms and create capacity for 145 more students. Once construction is complete and students and staff move into the new classroom space (spring 2026), the school district will be able to eliminate the four portable classrooms currently on site. [>>Read the media release.](#)

Information

NVSD EV charging stations

The school district is standardizing its Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, starting with the installation of new FLO charging stations at four sites. New chargers are now operational at Argyle Secondary and the Education Services Centre, with installations at Handsworth Secondary and Mountainside Secondary planned to occur over the Winter Break.

These sites were selected based on the availability of electrical infrastructure to support the new charging stations. The remaining secondary schools will be targeted for future phases of the charging-station rollout, along with elementary school sites undergoing major capital upgrades.

Charging stations on school district sites are intended to support the commute to and from school for students and staff, rather than being a substitute for home charging.

The installation of these EV charging stations represents the first step in a broader rollout of standardized charging infrastructure for students and staff and demonstrates the school district's commitment to Environmental Stewardship. Please contact sustainability@sd44.ca with any questions.

Policy 611: Privacy

At the December 6, 2022 Public Board Meeting, revised Policy 611: Privacy was approved by the Board of Education. The [revised policy](#) has been posted to the school district website; administrative procedures will follow.

Homestay families needed

Each year, the North Vancouver School District welcomes students from around the world to live and study in our vibrant community. We strive to place secondary school international students with families who live close to school to support each student's integration into the school and wider community.

There are secondary school international students in need of a homestay placement for the school term beginning September 2023. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our International Education program office at international@sd44.ca. More information about the homestay program is available on the [International Education](#) section of the school district website.

Reminder: Supporting students and families in the community

Through the Student and Family Affordability Fund (SFAF), the school district is supporting students and their families who are feeling financially challenged due to the rising costs of living.

To request financial support at any time throughout the 2022-2023 school year, please complete the form(s) available on the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) web page and submit the form(s) in confidence to either your child's teacher, principal, school counsellor or front office staff. A listing of eligible expenses, and answers to common questions, can be found on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page.

NVSD Events

Standing Committee Meeting - January 10

A Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place on Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda (the latter is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Public Board Meeting – January 17

A Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda and board package (the latter is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

NVSD Chess Championship - February 17

The NVSD Chess Championship returns on Friday, February 17, and will be hosted at the Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Avenue).

The tournament is open to all NVSD students, and all skill levels are welcome. There are two divisions for players to enter (elementary and secondary). While there is no fee to register, pre-registration is required as there is a maximum number of participants in each division.

For more information and to register your child, please visit the event's [Information and Registration](#) web page.

PATHS – Exhibition ends February 23

This year's fall exhibition, *PATHS*, examines how paths connect us and the collective stories they hold. *PATHS* brings together works from Artists for Kids' permanent collection, including recent acquisitions from Charlene Vickers, Russna Kaur and Angela George. For information about this exhibition hosted at the Gordon Smith Gallery, visit the [exhibition](#) web page.

NVSD Registrations

AFK After School Art – Registration open

Taught by art specialist teachers and assisted by secondary art students, AFK's After School Art classes provide students the opportunity to further their artistic ability and foster positive attitudes towards the visual arts. Visit the [Artists for Kids](#) website for more information and to register.

AFK Spring Break Camps – Registration open

Students will enjoy a week full of studio art activities including drawing, painting and printmaking taught by an art specialist teacher. Each week will be unique with expert art teachers guiding students to experiment with many art materials and techniques. All materials are provided. Visit the [AFK Day Camps](#) web page for more information and to register.

North Vancouver Online Learning – Registration open

NVOL provides engaging and interactive learning experiences for students and adult learners. Students can choose from a full suite of [courses](#) from Grades 8 through 12 in both English and French.

Students can choose to engage in their NVOL courses entirely remotely online or in a blended model of online and in-person learning at the NVOL Centre. The flexibility NVOL offers allows students to take additional courses or adjust their schedules to meet the demands of their busy lives.

Elementary Band and Strings - Registration begins January 16

Elementary Band and Strings is a unique instrumental music program that complements the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Arts Education curriculum and provides school-based instrumental instruction to students in Grades 5 – 7 for Band and Grades 4 – 7 for Strings. Registration for the 2023/2024 school year runs from January 16 – February 28.

While there is a Late Registration enrolment period, this is subject to program availability and class size at your child's school site and is dependent on sufficient registrations received by February 28. Visit the [Elementary Band and Strings](#) web page for more information, including program fees.

New registration and transfer requests begins January 23

Priority placement for new registrations and transfers for Grades 1-12 begins on Monday, January 23 and ends on Friday, March 3 at 4 p.m. Visit the [2023/2024 Registrations and Transfer Requests](#) web page for detailed information.

Late French Immersion Information Session – January 23

An information session for Grade 5 students and their families interested in applying to the Late French Immersion program (Grade 6 entry) will be held at École Secondaire Argyle Secondary School on Monday, January 23 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Applications will be accepted from Monday, January 23 through to Friday, March 3. For more information about the program, visit our [Late French Immersion](#) web page.

Secondary Enhanced Programs & Academies Night – January 26

Save the date! Families with students in Grades 7 to 11 are invited to learn more about the various enhanced programs and academies offered at secondary schools throughout the school district. The event will take place the evening of Thursday, January 26 at Sutherland Secondary School (1860 Sutherland Avenue). Details to follow, including start time.

Academies – Applications accepted starting January 27

Our highly specialized academies are designed to enhance the overall student experience by providing learning environments that concentrate on a focal skill set. Students in Grades 8 to 12 work towards graduation while accelerating their knowledge and skill development in an area of interest that can form a foundation for successful post-graduation pursuits.

The following academies will be offered during the 2023/2024 school year:

AFK Studio Art | Basketball | Business of Gaming and Entrepreneurship | Dance | Digital Media | Digital Media Lite | Field Hockey | Hockey Skills | Robotics | Rowing | Soccer | Volleyball

To note:

- Final academy offerings are subject to sufficient enrolment.
- The application period for academies begins on Friday, January 27 and ends on Monday, February 27.

For more information about our Academies program offerings, please visit our [Academies](#) web page and plan on attending the Secondary Enhanced Programs & Academies Night on January 26.

IB Diploma Programme - Upcoming key dates in February

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) is an internationally recognized, rigorous university preparatory two-year program for students in Grades 11 and 12 that leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities. It is offered at Carson Graham Secondary.

Key Dates:

- **Thursday, February 2:** Information session (in-person) for interested students currently in Grade 10, and their parents/guardians.
- **Friday, February 3:** Deadline to sign up for "DP for a Day." Prospective students will explore the program firsthand by meeting with IB coordinators, teachers and current DP students. Sign up via email to [Cora Pross](#).
- **Friday, February 17:** Application deadline. Visit the [Application Process](#) for information. Visit the Carson Graham [IB Diploma Programme](#) web page for more information about the program.



Missed an issue? Updates from the Superintendent, including the monthly Superintendent's Report, are [available for review](#).

The North Vancouver School District is situated upon the unceded traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tseil-Waututh Nation. We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.

